



# MINUTES

## OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting

### October 03, 2023

#### MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. John Elliott, District I  
Mr. Matthew Durham, Chairman, District II  
Mr. Don Mize, Vice Chairman, District III  
Mr. Julian Davis III, District IV  
Mr. Glenn Hart, Chairman Pro Tem, District V

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Jennifer C. Adams, Clerk to Council present.

**Press:** Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [[www.oconeesc.com/council](http://www.oconeesc.com/council)]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: Riley Morningstar / The Journal, Dick Mangrum / WGOG 101.7

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Moment of Silence**

Mr. Durham asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by County Council Chaplain.

#### **Invocation by County Council Chaplain**

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Rick Bock led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, approved 5 – 0, to approve the September 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented.

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### **Attorney's Comments**

Mr. Root informed Council that the Project Galt company name has been revealed as Books for Less, LLC.

### **Administrator's Comments**

None for this meeting.

### **Millage Presentation to Council**

Mrs. Christy Hubbard, Oconee County Auditor, addressed Council utilizing a power point presentation entitled, "2024 Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Year Oconee County Millage Presentation", [copy filed in backup] that included details regarding the current recommended millage.

Mrs. Hubbard provided Mr. Davis with details regarding his questions related to legal residential exemptions and bond payments as they relate to millage.

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve millage rates as presented.

### **Public Comment Session**

*If you are not able to attend in person and you have a comment, you may submit it by contacting our Clerk to Council, Jennifer C. Adams at [jennifercadams@oconeesc.com](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com) or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record.*

1. Mr. Stephen Spearman addressed Council with his concerns related to Real Estate Affidavit of Interest forms and provided his opinion as to how these should be recorded in the Register of Deeds office to help prevent property owners from scams.
2. Mr. Jim Mann thanked Council for their approval of increased pay within the Emergency Services Department and added comments related to the Town Hall Invite to Council.
3. Ms. Hannah Lowe urged Council and the citizens of Oconee County to be better stewards of the land.
4. Mr. John Morrey addressed Council with is opinion that the Oconee County ordinance regarding subdivisions is outdated and needs improvement.

### **Council Members Comments**

Mr. Elliott addressed citizens comments related to real estate scams, stewardship of Oconee County farmland and development standards within the County, noting these standards need be addressed urgently.

### **Third Reading of the Following Ordinances**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **Second Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2023-17 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND A COMPANY IDENTIFIED FOR THE TIME BEING AS PROJECT GALT, ACTING FOR ITSELF, ONE OR MORE CURRENT OR FUTURE AFFILIATES AND OTHER PROJECT COMPANIES (COLLECTIVELY, "COMPANY"); PROVIDING FOR A FEE IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES INCENTIVE; PROVIDING FOR A**

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SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDIT; CREATING A, OR MODIFYING AN EXISTING, JOINT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND PICKENS COUNTY SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROJECT AS PART OF THE PARK; AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2023-17** on second reading.

### **First Reading of the Following Ordinances**

**ORDINACE 2023-18** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS ONLY, REGARDING AMENDMENTS (DELETIONS) TO THE SIGN CONTROL ORDINANCE OF OCONEE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Mr. Elliot made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve **Ordinance 2023-18** on first reading.

Mr. Elliot made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davis, approved 5 - 0, to amend the motion to approve **Ordinance 2023-18** on first reading by retaining the language contained in letter B under Section 32-521 in Article VII of Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances.

Amended motion approved 5 – 0.

### **First & Final Reading for the Following Resolutions**

None scheduled for this meeting.

### **Discussion Regarding Action Items**

#### **Anderson / Oconee Reginal Forensics Laboratory**

This partnership between the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office and the Oconee County Sheriff’s Office has been in place since 2001. The laboratory is based in Anderson, South Carolina and provides for forensic drug analysis; clandestine drug laboratory investigation and analysis; expert forensic testimony; consultation and assistance from a sworn DEA Task Officer as necessary; and training for agencies in the areas of clandestine lab safety and investigation.

The OCSO is requesting approval and authorization to pay this expense in future years regardless of reasonable increases due to rising supply costs, etc. and it does not exceed the budgeted amount.

This partnership provides quality and timely analysis of submitted drug cases for all agencies in the Tenth Judicial Circuit which includes Anderson County and Oconee County. This eliminates the need for sworn personnel to drive to Columbia to submit evidence thereby reducing fuel and personnel costs. Also, we do not have to rely on a SLED forensics expert to drive from Columbia to testify in court. This results in cases being closed in a more timely manner. Anderson County Sheriff’s Office is responsible for the salaries of all laboratory personnel. The operational budget (all supplies, equipment costs/repairs, etc.) are split equally between Anderson County Sheriff’s Office and Oconee County Sheriff’s Office.

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***It is staff's recommendation that Council:***

- 1. Approve the request to renew services provided by Anderson / Oconee Regional Forensics Laboratory in the amount of \$59,000.00.***
- 2. Approve this expense in future years as long as it does not exceed the approved budget amount.***

Mr. Durham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve the request to renew services provided by Anderson / Oconee Regional Forensics Laboratory in the amount of \$59,000.00 and to approve this expense in future years as long as it does not exceed the approved budget amount.

**Title: 2023 Chevrolet Silverado**  
**Amount: \$51,998.00**

**Department: Sheriff's Office**

**Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget process.**

**Budget: \$51,998.00    Project Cost: \$51,998.00    Balance: \$0.00**

**(Funding from Capital Equipment / (325) Vehicle Fund)**

The Fiscal year 2023-2024 Capital Replacement plan includes one (1) Chevrolet Silverado for the Sheriff's Office / Investigations.

The new vehicle will replace a 2007 F-150 with 158,700 miles. The 2007 F-150 being replaced will be sold as surplus or replace older vehicles used in other County departments. The Fleet Maintenance Director also approves this purchase.

Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC was awarded SC State Contract # 440031134 for Chevrolet vehicles, contract expires 9-12-2024.

Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC is a SC State Contract holder for Chevrolet vehicles.

***It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the purchase of one (1) Chevrolet Silverado from Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$51,998.00.***

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of one (1) Chevrolet Silverado from Love Chevrolet of Columbia, SC, in the amount of \$51,998.00.

**Procurement #: RFP 23-01**  
**Amount: \$59,500.00**

**Title: Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study**  
**Department: Administration**

**Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget process.**

**Budget: \$59,500.00    Project Cost: \$59,500.00    Balance: \$0.00**

**(Funding for this project will come from open position salaries.)**

At the June 6, 2023 Council meeting, County Council directed Staff to issue an RFP for a Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study for a firm to provide a detailed analysis and investigation to gather information about various aspects of compensation and time allocations. The study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how individuals are compensated for their work and how they allocate their time across different activities. The study should include a collection of various factors including salaries, wages, benefits and time spent on tasks or activities to understand the employee's job scope.

RFP 23-01 Classification Compensations and Time Use Study was issued on July 19, 2023, sent to four (4) firms and downloaded by twenty-four (24) firms. Five (5) proposals were received on August 29, 2023.

An Evaluation Committee consisting of County Staff reviewed / scored all responses and recommended interviewing the two (2) firms with the highest scores in Round 1. The Committee conducted interviews on September 19, 2023 and unanimously recommended Evergreen Solutions, LLC of Tallahassee, FL for the award.

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*It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve:*

- 1. The Award of RFP 23-01 Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study to Evergreen Solutions, LLC of Tallahassee, FL, in the amount of \$59,500.00.*
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents for this project.*

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mize, to approve the Award of RFP 23-01 Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study to Evergreen Solutions, LLC of Tallahassee, FL, in the amount of \$59,500.00 and to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents for this project.

Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis both voiced their concerns and disapproval of the above request.

Mr. Durham noted that this study would provide a plan for salaries moving forward.

Motion approved 3 – 2 [Mr. Elliott and Mr. Davis opposed].

### **Council Committee Reports**

None for this meeting.

### **Board & Commission Appointments**

#### **Agricultural Advisory Board**

At-Large: One questionnaire on file for this seat

Mr. Davis made a nomination, approved 5 – 0, to appoint Mr. Nathaniel Duncan to the vacant At-Large seat on the Agricultural Advisory Board.

### **Executive Session:**

None for this meeting.

### **Adjourn:**

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Jennifer C. Adams  
Clerk to Council

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